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BEDWAS AND MACHEN URBAN DISTRICT

COUNCIL

Annual Reports

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH



The PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR

YEAR ENDED 31st December, 1956

BEDWAS AND MACHEN URBAN DISTRICT

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BEDWAS AND MACHEN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.



1957.

Chairman Councillor W. H. PERRIN, J.P.

Vice-Chairman Councillor A. E. Gameson

MEMBERS :-

Councillor Mrs. S. J. Graham

Councillor G. Phillips

H. Curtis

F. C. Dudden

T. T. Williams

H. Gibbon

A. James

H. Ludlow

L. Vaughan

S. G. Lewis

C. Williams

E. V. Matthews

G. Beeston, J.P.

A. Walley



OFFICERS :-

Clerk of the Council W. Ewart Morgan.

Medical Officer of Health K. P. Giles, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

Surveyor and Engineer R. Ruttlely

Chief Financial Officer R. Humphries, A.C.I.S.

Public Health Inspector... .. H. R. Sulway, M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspector I. Jones, M.A.P.H.I.

Bankers Co-operative Wholesale Society

COUNCIL OFFICES,
BEDWAS.

July, 1957.

**To the Chairman and Members of the
Bedwas and Machen Urban District Council.**

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1956.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area of the District in Acres	...	...	...	...	Approx. 6,200
Population (Census 1951)	...	...	...	...	8,712
Estimated Population (R.G. 1956)	...	...	...	...	9,650
Number of Inhabited Houses (31.12.56)	...	...	...	...	2,853
Number of Persons per House	...	...	...	...	Approx. 3.38
Rateable Value 1st April, 1957	...	...	...	...	£55183
Product of Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	£207

VARIATION IN POPULATION FIGURES

Year							
1951	(Census figures)	...	...	...	...	...	8,712
1953	(Estimated Mid-year R.G. figures	...	...	...	...	...	8,788
1954	” ” ” ” ”	...	...	...	...	...	9,520
1955	” ” ” ” ”	...	...	...	...	...	9,520
1956	” ” ” ” ”	...	...	...	...	...	9,650

BIRTH RATE.

LIVE BIRTHS.				Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	104	92	196
Illegitimate	...	...	...	4	NIL	4
Totals				108	92	200

Birth rate per 1,000 of the population	...	...	...	20.72
Rate for the County of Monmouth	...	...	...	16.76

STILL-BIRTHS				Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	0	2	2
				0	2	2
Still Birth rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	...	0.20
Rate for the County of Monmouth	...	...	...	...	...	0.51

DEATH RATE.

				Males	Females	Total
Deaths from all casues	...	...	...	51	57	108
Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	...	11.19
Rate for the County of Monmouth	...	...	...	...	...	11.96

MATERNAL DEATH RATE.

Deaths from puerperal sepsis	...	...	...	...	NIL
Deaths from other puerperal causes	...	...	...	...	NIL

INFANT MORTALITY

DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER 1 YEAR.

				Males	Females	Total
Under 1 Week	...	...	...	3	1	4

The above were the only deaths occurring during the year of children under 1 year.

INFANT MORTALITY RATE.

Per thousand live births...	...	...	...	...	...	20.00
Rate for the County of Monmouth	...	...	...	...	...	28.96

DEATHS FROM ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

NIL.

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES.

CAUSE					Males	Females
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	...	...	...	...	1	2
Cancer (Stomach)	...	...	...	...	2	0
Cancer (Lung)	...	...	...	...	1	1
Cancer (Other sites)	...	...	...	...	4	5
Parasitic diseases	...	...	...	...	0	1
Diabetes	...	...	...	...	1	1
Vascular diseases of the Nervous System	...	...	...	...	6	8
Coronary Disease - Angina	...	...	...	...	9	4
Other Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	5	7
Other Circulatory disease	...	...	...	...	3	4
Influenza	...	...	...	...	0	1
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	2	1
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	3	6
Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	...	4	0
Nephritis and Nephrosis	...	...	...	...	1	1
Congenital Malformations	...	...	...	...	1	1
Other Defined and Ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	...	5	12
Motor Vehicle accidents	...	...	...	...	0	0
Other accidents	...	...	...	...	1	2
Suicide	...	...	...	...	2	0
Totals	...	...	...	...	51	57

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Notifications received of Infectious Diseases were as follows :-

DISEASE	Number of cases							
Scarlet Fever	1
Measles	21
Puerperal Pyrexia	1
Erysipelas...	2
Meningitis	1
Tuberculosis11
Total	37

WARD INCIDENCE (Excluding Tuberculosis)

WARD	Scarlet Fever		Measles	Eris- ipelas	Puer- peral Pyrexia	Menin- gitis
Maescwmmmer	...	0	1	0	0	1
Bedwas	...	1	3	2	1	0
Trethomas	...	0	1	0	0	0
Machen	...	0	16	0	0	0
Totals	...	1	21	2	1	1

Apart from the 16 cases of Measles occurring in the Machen Ward, the year shows a remarkable freedom from the incidence of Infectious Diseases.

TUBERCULOSIS.

There is a steady decline in the incidence of tuberculosis, especially the non-pulmonary type.

During 1954 14 case pulmonary and 1 case Non-Pulmonary

During 1955 13 case pulmonary

During 1956 11 cases pulmonary.

These statistics are very encouraging and show that the preventive measures taken are the treatment at the sanatoria are paying dividends.

TUBERCULOSIS.

CASES NOTIFIED AND MORTALITY DURING 1956

Age Period		New Cases		Mortality	
Years		Males	Females	Males	Females
0 to 1 years ...	...	0	0	0	0
1 to 5 years ...	...	1	0	0	0
5 to 10 years ...	...	0	0	0	0
10 to 15 years ...	...	0	1	0	0
15 to 20 years ...	...	1	2	0	0
20 to 25 years ...	...	0	0	0	0
25 to 35 years ...	...	2	0	0	2
35 to 45 years ...	...	0	0	1	0
45 to 55 years ...	...	2	0	0	0
55 years and over	...	2	0	0	0
Total ...	...	8	3	1	2

WARD INCIDENCE

Ward	Cases Notified		Deaths	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
Maesycwmmer ...	2	0	1	0
Bedwas ...	1	1	0	2
Trethomas ...	3	2	0	0
Machen ...	2	0	0	0
Total ...	8	3	1	2

HOUSING

	Temporary	Permanent
1. No. of separate dwellings owned by local authority on 31st December, 1956	50	935
2. Total number of new separate dwellings completed during the year ...		
(a) By local authority ...	...	45
(b) By Private enterprise ...	...	9

Number of Council-owned Houses in the respective wards

WARD	No. of Dwellings
Maescwmmmer ...	151
Bedwas ...	348
Trethomas ...	315
Machen ...	171
Total at end of the year 1956 ...	985

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS UNDER HOUSING ACT, 1949.

Number of grants during 1956 ...	17
Amount of grants during 1956 ...	£3179
Total number of grants 1949-1956 (inclusive) ...	24
Total amount of grants, 1949 to 1956 (inclusive) ...	£4340

IMPROVEMENT LOANS UNDER HOUSING ACT, 1949

Number of Loans during 1956 ...	1
Amount of Loan during 1956 ...	£400
Total number of Loans, 1949-1956 (inclusive) ...	2
Total amount of Loans, 1949 - 1956 (inclusive) ...	£950

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

K. P. GILES,

Medical Officer of Health

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT

COUNCIL OFFICES,

BEDWAS.

June, 1957.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Bedwas and Machen Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Graham and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year ending 31st
December, 1956 :-

NOTICES SERVED.

1. PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936 (Sec. 92 and 93)
(Abatement of nuisances, repairs to properties)

Intimation Notices	...	...	...	85
Abatement Notices	...	...	...	2
2. PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936 (Sec. 269).

Unlicensed site for Moveable Dwellings	1
--	---
3. PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936 (Sec. 83)

Cleansing of Premises	3
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HOUSING ACT, 1936

- (a) Houses demolished as a result of
formal or informal notices under
Sec. 11. NIL
- (b) Houses closed under sec. 11 of
Housing Act, 1936 and Sees.
10 (1) and 11 (2) Local Govern-
ment Act (Miscellaneous Pro-
visions) 1953. 3 houses - 8 persons displaced
- (c) Closing Orders made under above
Acts 1

REPAIRS TO PRIVATELY OWNED PROPERTIES.

Number of unfit houses rendered fit during the period as a result of informal action	57
---	----

Action under Statutory Powers.

Public Health Acts.

Number of houses in which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notices :-

(a) By owners	9
(b) By local authority ... ..	...NIL

Housing Act, 1936.

Number of houses made fit after service of formal notices :-

(a) by ownersNIL
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HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENTS ACT, 1954.

No applications were received for certificates of disrepair.

COUNCIL HOUSES

Inspections were carried out of the houses owned by the Council to ensure that a reasonable state of cleanliness was being observed by the tenants. The very small percentage of really dirty tenants is a satisfactory state of affairs, as only 6 re-visits had to be made during my inspections.

On some of my visits I have been accompanied by the N.S.P.C.C Inspector, where the situation necessitates this action for the protection of children and this has brought about a great improvement.

All prospective tenants for Council houses are visited and transfers of tenancies reported upon.

Insecticides and disinfectants are given free to assist tenants to cleanse and keep their houses free from all vermin.

The number of inspections and re-inspections for the above purposes during the year were 42.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Inquiries were made into certain cases of infectious disease notifications and disinfection of rooms and premises were carried out in respect of 4 cases.

WATER SUPPLY.

The area is served by the Rhymney Valley Water Board and the supply is ample and sufficient.

6 Samples of water were taken by me during the year and were pronounced satisfactory after analyses.

The Water Board also carried out sampling in various parts of the area to ensure a safe and pure supply.

SWIMMING POOLS

There is one privately owned swimming pool situated in the Maescwmmer Ward.

Three samples of the water were taken during the swimming season and the analyst's report was satisfactory for each sample.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The Rhymney River follows roughly a course North to South on the Western boundary of the Bedwas and Machen area.

It is polluted by the effluent from collieries and other industries prior to its entry into the Bedwas and Machen district. This is also aggravated by the entry of the effluent from the Bedwas Colliery and the British Benzol and Coal Distillation Plant.

The banks are patrolled at least twice a year for rodent infestation and treatments are carried out in co-operation with the adjacent authorities abutting the river banks.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

Complaints were received with regard to the emission of grit into the atmosphere and deposited in and around the houses near the British Benzol Coal Distillation Plant. This was investigated and it was found that the wet quenching of the coke was responsible for the nuisance.

The procedss of quenching is most modern of its kind and there is an ample supply of water for the purpose and the most practical means have been adopted by the company to minimise the nuisance.

SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES.

Milk Supply.

Licences issued for the sale of designated milks :-

1. Dealers licensed to sell pasteurised milk	...	...	3
2. Dealers licensed to sell tuberculin tested	...	...	1
3. Dealers licensed to sell T.T. Pasteurised	...	...	1
4. Dealers licensed to sell sterilised milk	...	...	2
5. Supplementary licenses issued for sale of milk by retailers from outside the area.	...	...	3

Six samples of milk were taken and submitted for bacteriological examination. The results were satisfactory.

In addition, samples were taken by the County Public Health Inspector at the schools in the area.

ICE CREAM.

19 premises are registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1956 for the sale of or storage for sale of ice-cream.

One place alone makes its own ice-cream in which the hot mix method is employed. The remainder of the premises retailing ice-cream sell the product pre-packed from reliable wholesale manufacturers.

FOOD SHOPS AND STORES.

The following foodstuffs were surrendered and condemned as unfit for human consumption :-

MEAT FOODS :-

CANNED MEATS :-

176 lbs. beef

8 cans shoulder ham

32 lbs bacon

7 tins stewed steak

2 dozen pork pies

5 tins corned beef

2 lbs roast pork

5 tins minced beef

113 tins of various fruits ; 14 tins various fish products, 53 tins of various vegetables ; 22 tins of various soups 2 cwts potatoes.

Sampling of foods under the Food and Drugs Act is carried out by the Weights and Measures Department of the Monmouthshire County Council.

LICENSED PREMISES AND CLUBS.

The licensed premises and clubs were inspected during the year with regard to the requirements as laid down in the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955.

The 17 Public Houses and 7 Clubs situated in the area were visited and advice given with regard to the installation of facilities for washing, etc., with emphasis on the continuous supply of hot running water.

In all cases the owners or occupiers were ready to co-operate in every way.

BAKEHOUSES.

Regular inspections are made in the 3 bakehouses in the area and the general standard of cleanliness is satisfactory.

CANTEENS AND CAFES.

Routine inspections were made to all canteens and cafes and during these inspections the opportunity is taken to stress the need for absolute cleanliness on the part of the food handlers in their personal habits and the hygiene of the preparation of the foods served in these establishments.

Posters are given to these food handlers to place in conspicuous places in the premises.

Number of Inspections made during the year :-

School Canteens	...	...	...	8
Cafes...	...	...	...	10
Factory Canteens	...	...	...	4
Pithead Canteen	...	...	...	6

FOOD POISONING.

No case of food-poisoning was notified during the year.

MEAT INSPECTION.

There are 4 Private Slaughterhouses in the area in which regular slaughter of animals for food for human consumption is carried out.

Two of these establishments are situated in the Maesyewmmer Ward ; One in the Bedwas Ward and One in the Machen Ward.

Your Additional Public Health Inspector is employed full-time in meat inspection at the Co-operative Wholesale Society Abattoir where the largest percentage of the slaughtering takes place and from which most of the meat is exported to other districts.

Practically every Sunday during the year your inspectors are engaged in meat inspection and until such time as the slaughter of animals is prohibited on Sundays, this practice will have to be continued to ensure a safe meat supply from these establishments.

During the year the total number of animals slaughtered and inspected is as follows :-

1. Co-operative Wholesale Society Abattoir (where your full-time meat inspector is employed 30,204 animals
2. The remaining three establishments where the inspections are carried out by your Public Health Inspector 8,245 animals

SLAUGHTERING STATISTICS.

CARCASSES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE
OR IN PART.

			Cattle excl. cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and lambs	Pigs
Number killed	...	...	3,696	21	568	25,181	8,983
Number Inspected	...	...	3,696	21	568	25,181	8,983

ALL DISEASES EXCEPT
TUBERCULOSIS AND
CYSTERCERCI

Whole carcasses condemned	...	...	1	0	3	14	34
Carcasses of which part or organ condemned	...	...	1,792	5	1	756	785
Percentage of number affected with disease	...	...	48.48	24.00	0.7	3.04	8.74

TUBERCULOSIS ONLY

Whole carcasses condemned	...	...	5	1	0	0	4
Carcasses of which part or organ condemned	...	...	485	2	0	0	649
Percentage of Number affected with tuberculosis	...	...	13.53	14.3	0	0	7.26

CYSTERCERCOSIS

Carcasses of which some part or organ affected	...	...	39	0	0	0	0
Carcasses submitted to refrigeration treatment	...	...	39	0	0	0	0
Generalised and totally condemned	...	...	0	0	0	0	0

RODENT CONTROL AND DISINFESTATION

The area is still being regularly patrolled by your Rodent Operator. All complaints received were immediately investigated and, where necessary, treatments carried out.

The river banks were inspected and treatments carried out together with the co-operation of adjoining authorities.

Constant supervision of refuse tips and places where the rodents make their natural habitats was maintained and no effort was spared to keep down the rat population.

Two token sewer treatments were carried out during the year. One during the month of March and one in September.

1. 5th to 31st March, in which :-

422 sewer manholes were inspected.

356 sewer manholes were baited

290 sewer manholes showed prebait take.

10 sewer manholes showed complete prebait takes.

2. 3rd to 29th September, in which

420 Sewer manholes were inspected

330 Sewer manholes were baited.

280 Sewer manholes showed prebait takes

7 Sewer manholes showed complete prebait takes.

Advice and assistance is readily available from the Pest Control Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, for which I record my thanks.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949
REPORT FOR 12 MONTHS ENDED 31st MARCH, 1957.

				TYPE OF PROPERTY			Agricultural	
				Local Author- ority	Dwellings incl. Council Houses	All other incl. Business premises		Totals
1. Number of properties in the district				8	2,826	256	3,090	44
2. Number of properties inspected as a result of :-								
(a) Notification				0	83	0	83	1
(b) Survey under the Act				8	1,379	183	1,570	40
(c) Otherwise				0	0	0	0	0
3. Number of inspections including re-inspections				17	501	36	554	2
4. Number of properties inspected in (2) found to be infested by :-								
(a) RATS Major				3	0	0	3	1
Minor				0	61	0	61	0
(b) MICE Major				0	5	0	5	0
Minor				1	3	6	10	0
5. Number of Infested properties treated by L.A.				3	69	6	78	0
6. Total Treatments carried out				8	73	4	85	0

3 Block Control Schemes were carried out.

No notices were served under Section 4 of the Act.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Number of factories with mechanical power	...	...	5
No. of factories without mechanical power	...	...	6
No. of inspections made during the year	...	...	12

Two preliminary notices were served during the year to provide sanitary accommodation on new building sites.

I wish again to thank the officers of all the departments in the Council Offices for their co-operation in the provision of the data for compiling the statistics for this report.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

H. R. SULWAY,

Public Health Inspector.

